in varying amounts; these were grouped according to the relative abundance of one or another aplastic inclusion. It was frequently observed that large particles of white quartz were included in the paste, which at first glance looked like the "crushed quartz temper" characteristic of Uwharrie and Dan River var. Dan River wares. On closer inspection, however, many of these quartz pieces have rounded edges, no doubt a result of using very coarse sand in preparing the paste. It seems that McPherson site potters were obtaining river sands of varying size and, if some particles were deemed too coarse, the batch was pounded to reduce these large pieces and the resultant mixture then added to the clays. In addition to the broken quartz there also was an occasional piece of hematite and schist, sometimes rounded, sometimes broken. Three sherds contained particles of soapstone along with sand. It is clear that in reducing or choosing tempering material, particles less than 5mm in diameter were desired, a marked distinction with the earlier Uwharrie series sherds of the region.

Sherd color ranges from buff (rare) to orange (rare) to dark grey-brown (common); Munsell chart colors 10YR/3 and 10YR/4 would characterize the bulk of the sample. Interiors are dark brown to black, no doubt a result of inverting the vessel for firing. The paste is also dark, usually black or dark brown, also a result of firing in a reduced atmosphere. Hardness is between 2 and 3 on the Moh's scale. The paste generally is well-mixed, with some clumping of temper particles observed and an occasional lamination or void.

An obvious if impressionistic result of the analysis reflected in Table 2 is the remarkable homogeneity of the McPherson ceramic assemblage, particularly in regard to technological attributes and surface treatment. In comparing the contents of the three arbitrarily-defined midden levels, little directional variability is observed in exterior surface treatment or tempering agents. Also, there is no correlation of surface finish with temper in any level or overall, although this may be a result of the small sample size for some categories. There is one exception to the homogeneity of the assemblage, noted both by Rogers' (1984) analysis of the EU 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8 sample and my study of the EU 1, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 11 sample. From the lower to upper portion of the midden the frequency of interior scraping striations steadily decreases, from 57% (lowest midden level) to 49% to 42% (upper midden level). This is partially correlated with the frequency of plain exteriors, which increases in the uppermost midden level; plainware consistently has a lower incidence of interior scraping than other surface treatments. With plain sherds removed from consideration, however, the trend is still present. Interior scraping of net-impressed sherds declines from 57% to 50% to 44%. This pattern is especially interesting in that it seems to occur within a restricted time period; how restricted is not at all clear, but certainly the other